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April 23, 2001 LB 75, 536

SENATOR DIERKS: I think that's true.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why shouldn't we have them ante up, since they're going to benefit from this activity?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, we're asking them to ante up with the gluten tax and the distiller's grain tax.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But that's not directly on them. That's on the product. Isn't that true?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, but they have to pay for it, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But my question hasn't been answered. There is no direct tax on the feeders and the cattle growers, is there, in this bill?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, I'm not sure how you define that, but I think they are if they buy the products.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, where you say if you got three cattle you give us 2 cents for each one of those cattle. That'd be a direct amount. Are we putting any direct amount on these feeders and growers of cattle or livestock period who might gain from this program?

SENATOR DIERKS: No, we're not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Dierks. And I knew that, but as we discuss this, I think we're going to lose people but I want the record to be clear and I want there to be issues we've discussed. My motion is to bracket this bill. We ought to see what we're going to do with LB 75 first. Because if you insist on mandating that every retailer sell ethanol or attempt to, you're acknowledging that ethanol will not sell on its own. And that's why I say you're sending good money after bad because you want to subsidize with taxpayer money the production of a product that will not sell. It will not sell on its own in Nebraska. Ethanol production has always been subsidized, always. If these big multinational corporations hadn't gotten